

C 28
outputting at least a summary of said funeral plan to the user such that the user may determine whether to revise or accept said funeral plan as represented by received said planning data.

Sub 28
25. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 wherein if the user decides to revise said funeral plan then the user may edit said planning data, and if the user decides to accept said funeral arrangement plan then said funeral planning routine allocates resources based on said period of execution.

26. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24, wherein said funeral arrangement information includes type of disposition, type of funeral service, location of the funeral, and desired funeral services and/or products.

27. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24, further comprising presenting the user with an electronic selection guide for entering at least a portion of said funeral arrangement information.

28. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprising retrieving requested information associated with a plurality of products and services.

29. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprising running a price summary allowing the user to evaluate the immediate monetary effect in order to permit the user to adjust choices accordingly.

30. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 wherein said summary comprises name of user, selected services and/or products, quantity of selected services and/or products, price, tax, sub-total, cash advance amount, cash advance total, customer total, and combinations thereof.

31. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprising saving the funeral arrangement plan to a database.

32. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprising forwarding at least a portion of said funeral arrangement plan to a distributor's system when said period of execution is at-need.

33. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprising updating inventory of available products and/or services from a distributor such that said user may select said available products and/or service to include in said funeral arrangement information.

34. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 wherein said funeral planning routines are being executed on a computer local to the user.

35. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprising outputting upon request a price list for funeral products and/or services.

36. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 wherein said period of execution is either pre-need or at-need.

37. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprise permitting the user to change said period of execution between a pre-need registration to an at-need order.

38. The method according to claim 24, wherein said funeral arrangement information comprises type of disposition selected among choices comprising burial and cremation.

39. The method according to claim 24, wherein said funeral arrangement information comprises type of service selected among choices comprising viewing, memorial service, funeral ceremony, graveside service, and combination thereof.

40. The method according to claim 24, wherein said funeral arrangement information comprises location of funeral selected among choices comprising funeral home, and other facility.

41. The method according to claim 24, wherein said planning data further includes period of funeral services.

42. The method according to claim 24, wherein said summary comprises currently selected services, currently selected products, currently selected cash advance items, customer information, current quantity and cost, current customer total, and combinations thereof.

43. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 further comprising maintaining a database containing funeral home information comprises name, distributor account number, shipping address data, internet address, ftp address, contact information, disclosure information, phone, fax, email, state and local tax rates, and combinations thereof.

44. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24, wherein a portion of said planning data is obtained from a presentation to the user of available funeral arrangement products and services and a selection by the user of said available funeral arrangement products and services.

45. The computer-implemented method according to claim 24 wherein at least a portion of said funeral planning routines are being provided to a computer of the user from a server.

46. The computer-implemented method according to claim 33 wherein said updating is via an inventory check with a server of said distributor.

47. The computer-implemented method according to claim 45 further comprising providing a connection between said computer of the user and said server via the Internet.

48. A computer-implemented method permitting a user to electronically plan a funeral comprising:

employing a funeral planning routine comprising processes adapted to generate a funeral plan;

retrieving information requested by the user associated with a plurality of products and services;

receiving planning data from the user, said planning data including biographical information, period of execution, and funeral arrangement information comprising desired products and services;

utilizing said planning data in said funeral planning routine to generate said funeral plan; and

outputting at least a summary of said funeral plan to the user such that the user may determine whether to revise or accept said funeral plan as represented by received said planning data.

49. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48, wherein said retrieving is by accessing a database storing said information.

50. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48, wherein said plurality of products and/or services are provided by a plurality of funeral service providers, each of said plurality of funeral service providers is associated with a distinct set of products and services from said plurality of products and services.

51. The computer-implemented method according to claim 49, further comprising communicating with a distributor server to update at least a portion of said information on said plurality of products and services.

52. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising preventing the user from seeing out-of-stock products contained in said information.

53. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising presenting an electronic selection guide which lists a plurality of selectable user actions for interactively guiding the user in planning the funeral and selecting said desired products and services.

54. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising displaying an electronic response page in response to selection of one of a plurality of user actions provided by said funeral planning routine, said electronic response page providing said information on available funeral services and products in a database and enabling selection of said desired products and services from said available funeral services and products.

55. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising presenting an electronic selection guide page; displaying a current services page in response to a selected user action for services from said electronic selection guide page and populating said current services page with existing funeral service information contained in a database.

56. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising customizing said information as it should appear to the user by updating said information contained in a database with customized information.

57. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising:

storing said information in a database;

customizing said information by:

selecting which of said information in said database to display to the user;

customizing said information as it should appear to the user; and

updating said database.

58. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising:

storing said information in a database;

updating said database by downloading from a database server updated information in response to a user selection inventory update; and
updating said database with said information update.

59. The computer-implemented method of claim 48 further comprising entering said biographical information on an electronically displayed biographical entry form.

60. The computer-implemented method claim 48 further comprising presenting electronically a package page enabling user selection of various packages of preselected funeral products and/or services.

61. The computer-implemented method of claim 48 wherein said desired products and services include cremation selection, burial selection, transportation selection, caskets selection, urns selection, marker selection, funeral related merchandise selection, and combinations thereof.

62. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising forwarding an order generated from said summary to a server of a distributor for processing delivery of said order.

63. The computer-implemented method according to claim 60, further comprising sending a confirmation from said server to the user confirming said order.

21d
64. The computer-implemented method according to claim 48 further comprising displaying a multimedia presentation corresponding to user action for particular information when said user action for said particular information is selected.

65. The computer-implemented method of according to claim 64 wherein said particular information includes urn products, casket products, marker products, funeral related merchandise, explanations of disposition processes, and explanations of services.

Sub C3
66. A funeral arrangement planning system adapted to permit a user to electronically plan a funeral comprising:

a computer adapted to run a funeral planning routine comprising processes for generating a funeral arrangement plan for a period of execution;

an input device for inputting to the funeral planning routine planning data, said planning data including biographical information, period of execution, and funeral arrangement information;

a display for presenting visual objects related to said funeral planning routine and said planning data;

a memory device storing information related to funeral products and services;

a communication device for connecting to a remote server of a distributor of said funeral products and services to update said information and to provide an order to said distributor;

said computer is adapted to utilize said funeral planning routine to interactively guides the user through the planning of the funeral by accepting funeral arrangement data from the user and, when necessary, accessing said information stored in said memory device and storing said funeral arrangement data to said memory device, and

said computer is adapted to utilize said funeral planning routine and said planning data to generate a summary such that the user may determine whether to revise

Bar C 32

or accept the funeral arrangement plan as represented by said input planning data, if revising then the user may edit any portion of said planning data, and if accepting then said funeral planning routine is capable of sending said order to said distributor.

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were pending in this application. Claims 1-23 are cancelled, and claims 24-66 are added. Accordingly, claims 24-66 are pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 11, 12 and 14-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yagasaki (US 6,125,353) in view of the Tafirenyika publication. Claim 7 is rejected as being unpatentable over Yagasaki in view of the Tafirenyika publication as applied to claim 1. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected as being unpatentable over Yagasaki in view of the Tafirenyika publication applied to claim 1, and further in view of Tavor et al (US 6,070,149). Claim 10 is rejected as being unpatentable over Yagasaki in view of the Tafirenyika publication as applied to claim 1. Claim 13 is rejected as being unpatentable over Yagasaki in view of the Tafirenyika publication as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Slotznick (US 5,983,200). Claims 1-23 are cancelled.

New claims 24-66

Protection is desired for the embodiments of the invention presented by new claims 24-66, which incorporated the subject matter of cancelled claims 1-23. Support for new claims 24-66 is provided for in the specification and FIGS. 1-15. No new matter has been entered.

The above rejections are acknowledged by the Applicants but they are believed moot as applied to new claims 24-66. In particular, Applicants believe that new claims 24-66 are allowable in view of the cited prior art and the following comments.

Yagasaki is directed to a virtual mall providing a searching capability to locate and order a service or product offered by a number of vendors. As pointed out by the Examiner, the reference to Yagasaki does not specify that the products ordered may be